

VILLAGE OF PITTSFORD
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Special Meeting: October 29, 2020 at 6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Justin Vlietstra
Members: Jo Anne Shannon
Justin Leitgeb
David Marshall
Susan Lhota

Recording Secretary: Linda Habeeb

Other: Trustee Renee Stetzer

Motion: Chairperson Vlietstra made a motion, seconded by Member Marshall, to call the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, noting that all five members of the Planning Board are present.

Vote: Shannon – yes; Vlietstra – yes; Lhota – yes; Leitgeb – yes; Marshall - yes. *Motion carried.*

Chairperson Vlietstra stated that pursuant to Governor Cuomo’s recent Executive Orders, this meeting is being conducted online in response to the state's response to COVID-19. The Board is video conferencing instead of meeting in person. Meeting notice is posted on the village website, which includes a link to this meeting, so any member of the public can participate in this meeting and observe the discussions.

Conflict of interest disclosure: None of the Board Members had a conflict of interest to disclose.

Chairperson Vlietstra stated that there are three items on the agenda. The primary issue is to resolve the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Also, on the agenda is review of draft minutes and resolutions for 34-36, 40 State Street. He further stated that sent around a draft resolution for the LWRP consistency review that consisted of the Board’s prior findings with some new ones based on the discussion last week.

Board members reviewed the draft resolution and revised the findings based on the Trustees’ responses to the Board’s recommendations. Trustee Stetzer stated that they went as far as was practical amending the ATP, realizing that detailed designs are not going to happen at this time, and will have to be considered in the future. The Trustees have revised the ATP to incorporate recommendations from the Planning Board. The Planning Board's recommendation requested infrastructure improvements to improve access to the Erie Canal trail. The revisions incorporate recommendations to improve the bridges over the Erie Canal.

Trustee Stetzer explained some of the Trustees positions. She stated that the goals of the plan are aspirational, and detailed design for the improved bicycle access to the Erie Canal trail is beyond the scope of the ATP at this time. Details for new bicycle lanes on Main Street, State Street, and Monroe Avenue are complicated and require a detailed study, consultation with design engineers, public hearings, and meetings with interested parties. The need for bicycle lanes safe for all riders must be balanced against various concerns, including that constructing bicycle lanes along the Village main roads will likely eliminate parking spaces. The existing roads may be widened for dedicated buffered bicycle lanes. Street trees could be eliminated if roads are widened to construct bicycle lanes. Removing street trees is not desired and may result in an environmental impact. Wider sidewalks could be an option,

instead of bicycle lanes, but wide mixed-use sidewalks are not recommended. Sidewalks are best used for pedestrians, and bicycles are best accommodated with dedicated bicycle lanes on roads.

The Planning Board discussed the changes: there was agreement that the complex design details for new infrastructure are not practical to include in the ATP for 2020. The Planning Board agrees that the ATP is intended to provide high-level guidance on areas of concern for pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars, and not specific detailed plans. Member Vlietstra stated that it's important to capture the history of the back and forth, and that there is a significant planning effort between the Planning Board and the Board of Trustees. The Planning Board sent two documents to the Trustees: the first one is the LWRP recommendations, and the second one is general recommendations, and they responded to both of those documents with comments in blue.

Member Vlietstra stated that he would be interested in discussing some of the concerns in the Town, for example, objectives to connect the Village to Pittsford Plaza, as there is no way to get from the Plaza back to the Village. There are no sidewalks, shoulders, or bike lanes on the south side of the road near the Canal Bridge; they only put a potential mixed use sidewalk on the north side of the road. Member Marshall commented that in the design for some of the new neighborhoods, or building developments and housing developments, often have roads don't go anywhere. They are dead end cul-de-sacks and it's difficult to feel connected to the community. And from an ATP perspective, he suggested adding language that encourages the creation of attachments of these communities to the larger community.

Trustee Stetzer explained that the ATP should provide the foundation now that the Town is working on their zoning code, because the current zoning requirements are very outdated. She further stated that that was also part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan process. In the public input series, there were two sessions on housing and issues related to housing. They had an entire session on pedestrian safety and trails as part of their Comprehensive Plan. So, that should have been addressed in their Plan. Getting the ATP adopted gives us a good foundation to then ask the Town to change some of their zoning codes and some other requirements for developers to connect the neighborhoods to the rest of the community. She suggested bringing this up during the joint adoption to let the Town know that it is a concern.

Member Vlietstra stated that one concern in the Town portion of the plan is that they aren't going to change anything on their major roads, and so we're not going to get safe bicycle lanes in the foreseeable future. The shoulders on these are not the recommended width for use by general riders given the vehicle speed and volumes; they only serve the hardcore fearless riders. For example, sidewalks on Jefferson Road would be desirable, and they talked about some new routes to the school and some new trails in various places. But such things as getting children to school, connecting the Village to Pittsford Plaza, and connecting it to other adjacent towns are not included in the Plan in a manner that would be safe for average riders. He would really like to see specific plans that will create a sidewalk and bicycle lane network that will allow kids to ride safely to schools, particularly from anywhere in the Village.

Trustee Stetzer discussed how children ride their bicycles on sidewalks and are not likely to ride on main roads even if bicycle lanes were constructed. It is legal for children to ride on sidewalks but not adults. Member Lhota expressed that the addendum is very unwieldy, and she looks forward to it being incorporated into the original ATP document as soon as possible, as the addendum makes some important contributions. Member Vlietstra suggested sending a letter on behalf of the Village Planning Board, stating that the Board thinks it's important to include the revisions in the original document and work with the consultant to do so.

Village of Pittsford Planning Board

PZBA 10.29.20 Mtg
November 16, 2020

Pittsford Town Board
11 S. Main St.,
Pittsford, NY 14534

To the members of the Pittsford Town Board:

We, the members of the Village of Pittsford Planning Board, believe it is critically important that all items in the 2020 Supplement to the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) be incorporated directly into the body of the ATP main document. This vital community reference work and guide for future projects should be readily available to the public and planners to read and contemplate in the most accessible, meaningful format possible. Further, In order to insure that the public be given ample opportunity to consider and discuss the ATP and its Supplement, we believe it is especially important that the Supplement be fully integrated into the ATP prior to the public hearing on this document on December 2.

The 2020 ATP Supplement adds nine pages of commentary to the ATP draft which is already over 90 pages long. Following our revisions, we anticipate that several more pages will be added to the Supplement. The Supplement contains critical additions, corrections and revisions to specific pages in the original ATP document. The difficulty of properly reading and understanding the ATP given the unwieldy format of the Supplement is compounded by the fact that the original text does not include any footnotes indicating which sections have been amended.

In our review of the ATP, we made several suggestions based on the 2005 Town/Village Local Waterfront Revitalization Program document (LWRP). Substantial efforts that our community members made in drafting the LWRP fifteen years ago, have created a document that remains relevant to community planning today. Similar to the LWRP, we are confident that the ATP will help to improve our community for years to come. It would devalue the efforts of those who have contributed to the ATP and do a disservice to our community if the content of the Supplement is not more clearly integrated into the primary document.

Members of the Planning Board have made repeated attempts to obtain the editable sources of the ATP, at this point we have been unsuccessful. We appreciate the efforts of the members of the Town Board in ensuring that the adopted ATP is released in a form that allows it to have the greatest positive impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Justin Leitgeb

Village of Pittsford Planning Board

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Board members next reviewed and revised draft minutes.

**Motion:** Member Vlietstra made a motion, seconded by Member Shannon, to approve the August 17, 2020 minutes, as revised.

**Vote: Shannon – yes; Vlietstra – yes; Lhota – yes; Leitgeb – yes; Marshall - yes. *Motion carried.***

**Motion:** Member Vlietstra made a motion, seconded by Member Shannon, to approve the September 3, 2020 minutes, as drafted.

**Vote: Shannon – yes; Vlietstra – yes; Lhota – yes; Leitgeb – yes; Marshall - yes. *Motion carried.***

**Motion:** Member Vlietstra made a motion, seconded by Member Shannon, to approve the September 21, 2020 minutes, as drafted.

**Vote: Shannon – yes; Vlietstra – yes; Lhota – yes; Leitgeb – yes; Marshall - yes. *Motion carried.***

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Board members reviewed the 34-36, 40 State Street Resolutions.

Motion: Member Marshall made a motion, seconded by Member Vlietstra, to close meeting at 7:43 pm.

Vote: Shannon – yes; Vlietstra – yes; Lhota – yes; Leitgeb – yes; Marshall - yes. *Motion carried.*

Board members next reviewed the draft resolutions for 44 North Main Street and 36-38 & 40 State Street.

Linda Habeeb, Recording Secretary